



## **Fifth meeting of the SCB-ES Policy Committee** **Brussels, Belgium, Feb 8, 2008**

IUCN Regional Office for Europe Boulevard  
Louis Schmidt 64, 1040 Brussels

### **1. Welcome of the participants – new Chair takes over**

#### **Participants:**

Martin Dieterich (Germany)  
Pierre Ibisch (Germany)  
Barbara Livoreil (France)  
Nuria Selva (Poland, Chair)  
Barbara Mihók (Hungary, European Section Coordinator)

#### **Apologies for absence:**

Vassiliki Kati (Greece)  
Per Sjögren-Gulve (Sweden)  
Anna Doronina (Russia) was not responsive during 2007. We need to ask Anna about future activities and remind her that passive members will be taken from the PC member list.

### **2. Revision of the protocol of the last meeting and 2007 activities**

*Objective 1. Generate interest, involvement and capacity of conservation biologists to effectively work with policy stakeholders*

- 1.1. Explore and suggest mechanisms for increasing communication between scientists, managers and policy makers (2007-2009, IN PROGRESS). Per produced a draft ("Joint scientific evaluation") and sent it to Andrew for revision. Andrew will review it soon and then publish it on the SCB-ES policy webpage.
- 1.2. Accompany preparation of next ECCB and assure the adequate integration of policy issues (2007-2009, IN PROGRESS).
  - Name and slogan of ECCB2009 (ACCOMPLISHED, although not successful).
  - Getting policy actors involved (IN PROGRESS).
  - "100 policy questions" (IN PROGRESS): We have to redefine the strategy. Barbara approached Andrew and Bill Sutherland for information.
  - Organize of workshops and symposia (IN PROGRESS).
  - Develop the idea of collecting session summaries for policy-makers (FUTURE TASK, see below).
- 1.3. Integrate policy topics into planned Summer School (ACCOMPLISHED). Kiki developed a complete programme for the Summer School, including lectures, training, and field trips. Now she is looking for funding.
- 1.4. Write and publish articles about science and policy (ACCOMPLISHED, to be continued).
  - The Linné Editorial was published in Conservation Biology: *Sjögren-Gulve et al. 2007. Conservation Biology and the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Carl Linnaeus. Cons. Biol. 21(4): 905-906.*
  - The first draft on the economic evaluation of the loss of biodiversity by Martin and Pierre was circulated for comments among PC members. It was an official written contribution sent to Ladislav Miko's office in response to the according call for evidence (IN PROGRESS).
- 1.5. Contribute news to SCB newsletter (via secretary of section) (FUTURE TASK). Barbara Mihók and Gabor Lövei intend to circulate an SCB-ES newsletter regularly, every 3 or 6 months, depending on the capacity and amount of input. The SCB-ES website should be activated and regularly updated with contributions of the PC (short news, resolutions...). Barbara Mihók will keep us updated.

- 1.6. Check other newsletters for potential contributions (FUTURE TASK). It was suggested to do in cooperation with the Communication Committee.
- 1.7. Develop the idea of study on conservation policy /practice involvement of academics (FUTURE TASK). Very important, a task to be done when Kiki will be more available. Barbara attended the Meeting about Environmental Monitoring in Leipzig (EuMon <http://eumon.ckff.si/>).

*Objective 2. Improve implementation of policy instruments*

- 2.1. Continue and develop further case study collection on good/bad practice examples (Natura 2000 implementation). Kiki and Barbara produced a report summarising the results obtained at the Natura 2000 workshop in Eger was done and sent to all participants of the workshop. As well, a questionnaire about misuse of funds was produced (PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED, CANCELLED FOR THE MOMENT).
- 2.2. Start collection of cases referring to traffic infrastructure impacts. A first outline as well as the idea was developed (IN PROGRESS, MODIFIED).

*Objective 3. Stimulate the development of conservation legislation*

- 3.1. Realize a first appraisal to legislation on sustainable harvesting/ wildlife hunting / regulations (theses). A diploma and master thesis on the current trends of hunting in different regions of Greece were supervised by Kiki using questionnaires to hunters (ACCOMPLISHED IN GREECE, IN PROGRESS FOR EUROPE).
- 3.2. Realize a first appraisal to trade of potentially invasive species (CANCELLED).

*Objective 4. Contribute to the effectiveness and good performance of SCB-ES*

- 4.1. Guidelines for best practice of SCB-ES meetings (e.g. carbon-neutral meetings) (IN PROGRESS).
- 4.2. Support the BoD regarding contacts with policy stakeholders (IN PROGRESS). As a PC initiative, during the Brussel meeting Feb

2008, the BoD had an informal meeting with David Hammerstein, Member of European Parliament (MEP), and started to co-organise a future meeting with other MEPs interested in nature and environmental conservation issues. A meeting with Ladislav Miko took place during the BoD meeting.

4.3. Respond to SCB requests (CONTINUING TASK).

*Objective 5. Ensure sustainability and development of PC*

5.1. Explore funding opportunities (CONTINUING TASK).

5.2. Contact SCB-ES members, provide information on PC activities and solicit contributions (participation) and suggestions for activities to be launched by the PC (FUTURE TASK). To be done in cooperation with the Membership and Communication Committees.

**3. Work of the SCB Europe Policy Committee and cooperation with the global PC/policy director**

A Policy on Policy document was distributed by John Fitzgerald. Basically the document states that sections cannot act independently on any policy issue, that activities need Executive Office (Policy Director) approval. It was discussed in the BoD how to proceed. Andrew will get feedback after the BoG meeting.

**4. Member recruitment and participation in the PC**

We should focus on three main ways to recruit new PC members: (1) our personal contacts, (2) ECCB2009 is a big chance, (3) provide information to SCB-ES members about PC activities and (4) request to SCB-ES members (via section e-mail list), asking to be involved in certain concrete activities of the committee. We should work on the establishment of a Policy site at the ECCB2009 website. It is desirable to promote press release of significant PC actions that deserves to be spread. Another proposal was to contact

lecturers in conservation policy at universities. Barbara Mihók expressed her intentions of joining the PC. Kiki highlighted the urgent need of improving the SCB-ES website to promote our activities and get members.

## 5. More detailed analysis of initiatives to be continued

- a. **Statement regarding SIBIOS** – (Stern-like report on economic value of biodiversity loss) to be published (Martin/Pierre)  
German initiative during the last G8 meeting in Postdam, continued by European Commission. We aim at publishing a scientific paper in the policy section of Conservation Biology as a PC initiative. Martin will improve the draft and circulate the first version by the end of February among PC members. It should be submitted before June.
- b. **IMOSEB** (Martin)  
The process is stopped at the moment. Martin will ask Christoph Häuser, involved in IMOSEB, to participate in the PC.
- c. **Roadless areas** (Nuria)  
We abandon the initial idea of the resolution and case study collection. The goal now is to provide evidence that conservation actions/law should not be only focused on the protection of species and communities (very operational legally but not enough), but also on the protection of ecological processes. We aim at getting published a scientific paper in Conservation Biology, which should be submitted by the end of the year. The paper will include two parts: (1) a more theoretical one, dealing with ecological and legal aspects like the known effects of transport infrastructures, the existing EU nature Directives, the need to advance in the

protection of processes, especially in the context of climate change, and (2) a spatial analysis of the data (Natura 2000 network, transport infrastructure network or GLOBIO infrastructure footprint, unfragmented areas). We want to show that roadless/unfragmented areas are not always covered by the Natura 2000 network. We will provide descriptive data on the degree of fragmentation.

d. **Follow-up to Bialowieza resolution / petition** (Martin/Nuria)

The Bialowieza Resolution will be send to the new Polish Minister of Environment together with an enquiry letter, after notifying the BoD. Martin will develop the task.

e. **Natura 2000 effectiveness** (Martin)

We all agreed that the focus of the activity was too wide (misuse of funds, effectiveness, contradictions to Natura 2000 provisions) and need more precise goals. We decided to stop it for the moment till we have not more clear ideas, if Kiki agrees, and change the task into organizing a full and detailed Natura 2000 symposium/ workshop at the ECCB2009 (e.g. “Future developing of Natura 2000”). We have to work at three levels: (1) scientific, (2) administrative, and (3) implementation (NGOs, foresters, on-site administration); and with three key elements: (1) text (the Directives itself), (2) sites, (3) managements. Martin will provide a first outline of the symposium structure by mid March. Kiki would like to co-organise one.

f. **Wildlife regulations** (Pierre/(Kiki)

Two thesis supervised by Kiki on the topic. She will publish the results of the study within a year. Kiki suggests translating hunting regulations from different EU countries and make a comparison. A

questionnaire aimed at local people and hunters was prepared and translated into English. Barbara suggests a sociologist may be of help for the study. Pierre supports the idea of comparing hunting systems and regulations and how they affect biodiversity. A site on sustainable harvesting in DG Environment was found ([www.ec.europa.eu-environment-nature-conservation-wildbirds-hunting-index\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu-environment-nature-conservation-wildbirds-hunting-index_en.htm)). We discuss the difficulties and sense of having a unique European hunting legislation and agree that country specificity play a crucial role. No doubt, the idea of comparing hunting legislation across EU countries in a nature conservation framework, although time-consuming (needs translations) is extremely important. General suggestion is to review the conservation problems caused by hunting practices in every/several countries and re-question the topic. Kiki suggested to approach SCB-ES members interested in the issue, set up a protocol of data collection and collect precise legislation and administrative data. Ideally, a team of 4-5 persons from different countries could work on this (from October onwards).

- g. **ECCB2009** (Martin) (including programme, speakers, workshops, symposia, 'eco-friendliness')

Several policy related proposals arise:

- **Welcome** by the Minister of Environment of the Czech Republic in ECCB. The Policy Committee proposes that the opening ceremony will take place in the city centre. Martin will communicate it to Petr Zasadil.

- Proposed participation of a **Round Table of Ministers**: German, Swedish, and Czech, because of EU Presidencies and role in the Potsdam initiative, eventually also the secretary of the French minister, due to French leadership in the IMOSEB process. Per has serious doubts

about succeeding in getting involved the Swedish Minister because of his busy time with the EU Presidency; thus he suggested inviting Andreas Carlgren and also the British Environmental Minister, having Andrew involved in that. Kiki knows personally the Greek vice minister of Environment and she said she could contact him. Pierre and Martin will develop the initiative, topics and convincing arguments for ministers. It is conceived as an event for the evening where after an introductory statement people can ask questions. The proposed date is 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009.

- **Message from Prague** to be formally published and spread (e.g. "Conservation objectives for Europe after 2010"). The message from Eger was given to the Hungarian minister, who especially requested it. We should produce a message as a PC, and need to work on that before ECCB2009. Following the Tuczno message-from-Eger procedure, during the ECCB2009 the text will be revised by SCB members in a public meeting and later voted on. Efforts should be put on a good press release of the message, as well as on spreading it in the scientific world.

- Collection of relevant **policy outcomes** from the congress. The idea is to get a summary of summaries, get feedback and impressions of the presentations and document the most relevant. Then, we will analyse contributions in a similar way to the 100-questions paper. Based on that analysis and including the message from Prague, supported by SCB-ES members through voting, we could prepare a paper to be published by the PC. It is proposed to do it through the chairs of the symposiums. Every chair will be given a questionnaire and the related explanations through the e-mail list. They will also be announced in the ECCB2009 website. Pierre will prepare a first draft of the basic procedures, rationale and questionnaire by the end of the year. Per suggests that during EU Presidency, Sweden may be interested in organizing a seminar/workshop



about relevant conservation policy issues and we may connect it to this initiative at ECCB2009.

- **Policy related agenda publications** (SIBIOS review, Roadless areas). Put effort in having them published much before the congress, so we can use and spread these papers in the context of the ECCB2009.

- **Symposiums** to be developed by the PC

- Natura 2000

Topics to be included: (1) how to develop it, flexibility, what happens when a directive species disappear or colonize, should the sites have a minimum size, (2) target entities, it is species- and (habitat) community-focused, they are physical entities, (3) identify problems and shortcomings, proposing solutions, (4) comparison to USA conservation laws, (5) implementation. These aspects will be covered at three levels:

- Text of the directives: designation of new sites and possibilities to take off a site, explore the “potential” term and how it works the protection of “potential” habitat for the Annex species, is a revision of the text needed?
- Sites: fragmentation and connectivity
- Management: immigrating species (e.g. wolf, bee-eaters), reintroduction programmes of Annex species, hunting plans in Natura 2000 sites, should the sites be managed to reduce their fragmentation?

Martin and Pierre will develop the structure and circulate the outline in May-June so we can have the symposium ready before the official deadline (September 2008)

- Protecting ecological processes and services

Topics to be included: migration, genetic connectivity, hydroclimatic processes like cooling, dead wood, carrion, marine water cleaning by beaches, plant-animal interactions, resilience in terms of climate change and adaptation capacity, , water purification, evapotranspiration. Ecological processes presented as an alternative conservation target. Not only identifying and describing the loss of ecological processes and ecosystem services, but also presenting how to protect them. Link to climate change. Nuria will develop an outline and circulate among PC members. Per states that ecosystem services is a research area adopted by the EU ERA-NET “BiodivERSa” [www.eurobiodiversa.org](http://www.eurobiodiversa.org) and we need to contact Isabel Sousa Pinto, for example, to get more information regarding how the ERA-NET research develops.

- Acting in the name of climate change/Linking biodiversity, conservation and climate change

Topics to be included: climate change mitigation, adaptations to climate change, conflicts with conservation. Proposed parts: (1) adaptations of conservation to climate change, for example conservation of genetic variation (Swedish overview and National action plan) and the efficacy of actions suggested in the EU Commission’s Biodiversity Strategy of May 2006, (2) adaptations of land use and implications for conservation, (3) mitigation of climate change and implications for conservation. Pierre will prepare the outline and will co-chair the symposium.

- Other symposium proposals we try to have organised by us or by somebody else:
  - Common Agriculture Policy and conservation (Martin)

- Carpathians as an example of transEuropean conservation issue (Pierre)
  - Ecological Economics and/or Economics of biodiversity loss, link to ecosystem services (Martin), maybe as a workshop
  - Conservation physiology (Nuria)
  - Network theory in conservation (Nuria)
  - 2010 goal, halting biodiversity loss, do we need a countdown 21015?
- **Eco-friendliness** of the congress and carbon-offsetting.
- The idea is to have a small percentage of the congress budget dedicated to a good conservation project with effects on climate change. CO<sub>2</sub>-compensation projects, even if we do not completely believe in them, are always educative and make us think about our ecological foot print. Additionally, the initiative is important for external communication. The PC proposes to make a donation (about 10.000 euro) to such a project and that the awarded project will be selected on an open call. The scope of the call is to be global. All possibilities need to be checked and see if they are realistic. Pierre and Barbara know companies specialised in organising eco-friendly meetings. We should get familiar with the SCB carbon-offset programme published in Science. The BoD should vote on the open call to make a donation to a project and should have a decision by 2<sup>nd</sup> April.
- **Policy VIPs**, PC develops proposals to the BoD
- Barbara tries to approach David Attenborough and ask Luigi Boitani for somebody from IUCN. Other suggestions: somebody from the USA administration involved in the roadless areas rule, Mathias Wacknagel as inventor of the ecological footprint, Nestle director as person involved in water resources management and global economic

summit, David Baldock, head of the Institute for European Environmental Policy. Check the possibility to involve green business people in ECCB2009. Martin and Barbara will be in charge of that. Per insists that Swedish VIPs are likely to be very busy because of EU Presidency.

## 6. Arising issues

- **The Carpathian Convention.** Pierre tells us about this “FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARPATHIANS” which targets nature conservation and sustainable development<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Article 2  
General objectives and principles

1. The Parties shall pursue a comprehensive policy and cooperate for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians with a view to inter alia improving quality of life, strengthening local economies and communities, and conservation of natural values and cultural heritage.

2. In order to achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 1, the Parties shall take appropriate measures, in the areas covered by Articles 4 to 13 of this Convention by promoting:

- (a) the precaution and prevention principles,
- (b) the 'polluter pays' principle,
- (c) public participation and stakeholder involvement,
- (d) transboundary cooperation,
- (e) integrated planning and management of land and water resources,
- (f) a programmatic approach, and
- (g) the ecosystem approach.

(...)

Article 4  
Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity

1. The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biological and landscape diversity throughout the Carpathians. The Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure a high level of protection and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats, their continuity and connectivity, and species of flora and fauna being characteristic to the Carpathians, in particular the protection of endangered species, endemic species and large carnivores.

2. The Parties shall promote adequate maintenance of semi-natural habitats, the restoration of degraded habitats, and support the development and implementation of relevant management plans.

3. The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at the prevention of introduction of alien invasive species and release of genetically modified organisms threatening ecosystems, habitats or species, their control or eradication.

4. The Parties shall develop and/or promote compatible monitoring systems, coordinated regional inventories of species and habitats, coordinated scientific research, and their networking.

5. The Parties shall cooperate in developing an ecological network in the Carpathians, as a constituent part of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in establishing and supporting a Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, as well as enhance conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas.

(<http://www.carpathianconvention.org/index.htm>). It developed as an eco-regional initiative, as a political process rather parallel to another eco-regional effort made by WWF. It also includes two non-EU members, Ukraine and Serbia. The implementation of this convention is supported by UNEP-Europe (Secretariat in Vienna). This rather little known convention represents an opportunity for policy involvement on a subcontinental scale, in a region characterized by the last wild(erness) areas in continental Europe, mature/old-growth/"primeval" forests etc. European conservation should focus on this subcontinental region, especially in the context of the PC roadless area initiative. Pierre attended one meeting of representatives of the parties and scientists working in the region. Pierre suggests it as a good niche for SCB-ES. A next science workshop will be held in Bucharest, possibly just before a ministerial meeting on 16-18 June;

- **Meeting with Members of European Parliament** interested in nature conservation and environmental issues in general. After a first informal meeting with David Hammerstein, the list of MEPs was briefly discussed and slightly modified (see below). Nuria, together with Sonia, Hammerstein's assistant, will work on the definitive list; Martin remarks that it should include as broad as possible political spectrum. The proposal from Hammerstein's office is a two-day meeting before summer holidays.
- **Training course for journalists and scientists.** Barbara in charge, Nuria helps. It can also be organised as a workshop or symposium at ECCB2009. We see the need for scientists to learn to properly to communicate science to media and for journalists to learn about basic

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6. The Parties shall take appropriate measures to integrate the objective of conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity into sectoral policies, such as mountain agriculture, mountain forestry, river basin management, tourism, transport and energy, industry and mining activities.

scientific and conservation policy issues. Media is usually the only way for scientists to reach and have impact on the public.

## 7. Plan of activities 2008

Activities	Timeframe	Responsible
<b>SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE</b>		
“Joint scientific evaluation” text on mechanisms to increase scientists-policy makers interactions	First half 2008	Per, Andrew
Develop the “100 policy questions”	2008-2009	BarbaraL
Preliminary review of hunting legislation in Europe, sustainable harvesting and related conservation problems	2008-2009	Kiki, Pierre
Meeting with Members of European Parliament interested in nature conservation	end of June	Nuria
Attendance to the Carpathian Convention workshop in Bucharest	16-18 June	Pierre
Bialowieza Resolution following-up	Before first half 2008	Martin, Nuria
<b>SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS</b>		
Publication of the SIBIOS review as a scientific paper on the economic value of biodiversity loss	Draft circulate Feb Submission June	Martin, Pierre
Publication of a scientific paper on the protection of ecological processes and roadless areas in Europe	Submission end 2008	Nuria, Pierre
<b>COOPERATION GLOBAL SCB</b>		
Contribute to SCB newsletters	2008	BarbaraM
Improve cooperation with the Global SCB- PC and the Policy Director (symposium proposal)	2008-2009	BarbaraL, PC
<b>ECCB 2009</b>		
Develop policy-related symposiums for ECCB2009: (1)Natura 2000, (2)protection of ecological processes, (3)linking biodiversity, conservation and climate change	May-September 2008	Martin, Pierre, Nuria
Collection of relevant policy outcomes from ECCB2009 (Questionnaire preparation)	2008-2009 (end 2008)	Pierre
Preparation of the Message-from-Prague	2008-2009	PC

Carbon-offsetting in ECCB2009. Organising an open call for donation to a conservation project related to climate change	2008-2009	PC
Develop proposals of policy VIPs to the BoD	First half 2008	PC
Training course or symposium in ECCB2009 for scientists and journalists (how to communicate science)	2008-2009	BarbaraL, BarbaraM